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Identical letters dated 5 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 4 August 2004 regarding the military exercises conducted by the Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were urgently distributed as a document of the General Assembly under item 57 (n) of the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.
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Annex to the identical letters dated 5 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

Communiqué from the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs views with deep concern the military training exercises being conducted by the Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The attempts by the Armenian side to present these activities as exercises of the so-called "armed forces" of Nagorny Karabakh — which are in fact the illegal armed groups of the separatist regime established by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan — cannot deceive the world community.

Together with the intention to hold illegal elections in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan on 8 August 2004, the holding of such exercises is yet another provocation by the Armenian side.

These exercises are also exacerbating the atmosphere surrounding the proposed participation of Armenian representatives in the NATO Cooperative Best Effort 2004 exercises scheduled to be held in September this year in Azerbaijan.

The activities of the Armenian side, in addition to exacerbating the already complicated situation in the conflict area, significantly complicate preparations for the forthcoming round of negotiations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs draws the attention of the international community to the fact that the holding of these exercises is further clear evidence of the aggression being waged by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan and of the occupation of its territories.

The above-mentioned activities yet again prove the lack of will on the part of the Republic of Armenia to proceed to a rapid and peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict on the basis of the norms and principles of international law and are indicative of the efforts of that country to use any means to consolidate the results of its military aggression.

Baku, 4 August 2004